Comment on RM-11699

I oppose allowing encryption of Amateur Service transmissions even for such important work as emergency communications. It continues what seems to be a trend for non-hobbyists to get control of the Amateur frequencies and rights. The FCC offers licensed and unlicensed spectrum to support commercial and organizational radio needs. Radio Amateurs can use their considerable communications skills and disciplines using those commercial radios without the need to use the Amateur Service spectrum.

My credential is to have helped build a Amateur Service based network for eighteen hospitals. I stand willing to respond to the emergency requests using any communications device from telephone to hand-held ham radio. I am not willing to see commercial and other organizations incrementally take over the Amateur Service with an exception here and an exception there. These organizations need to install commercial devices using spectrum set aside by the FCC for those purposes.

Bruce MacAlister, W4BRU - 06/20/13